

A.C. Gilbert Heritage Society Newsletter

Volume XXV, No. 4

Founded 1991

December 2016



Preserving the History of A.C. Gilbert and His Career Building Toys

Hello Boys!

President's Message

On behalf of the A.C. Gilbert Society, I am announcing we have employed an editor(s) for our ACGHS Newsletter on a trial compensation basis. Dave and Marilyn Blood (who you know because they have been our Editors), have agreed to continue editing our ACGHS Newsletter for an unspecified amount of time. Dave and Marilyn have served the last four years as Editors and have consistently produced four great ACGHS Newsletters each year.



The ACGHS Board of Directors feel that our Newsletter is one of the most important and useful features of membership in ACGHS. Now, as ACGHS members, I ask each one of you to do your part in contributing ideas, articles, personal experiences and pictures to Editor Dave Blood for other members to enjoy. This will make Dave and Marilyn's job a whole lot easier if they don't have to discover everything on their own. Active files are kept to provide information for future Newsletters and this resource needs to continually be replenished. Lack of participation is the biggest threat to a doomed Newsletter. It takes 40 to 60 hours of time to produce each newsletter; a BIG job. I am so grateful that the Bloods have come to our rescue.

On a second topic, more features of an ACGHS membership are the friendships, knowledge, sources of Erector toys one can experience, as well as, the social aspect of ACGHS Regional Meetings and annual National Conventions. On a personal note on a vacation trip with my brother-in-law, I visited the Methow Valley Industrial Welding and Fabrication shop owned by Mark Edson at Twisp in the State of Washington. I noticed a couple of identical metal toy cranes in his office. One crane belonged to Mark and the other belong to a child acquaintance years ago named Chris. They formed the small "Chris and Mark Crane Company". Mark proceeded to teach Chris about lifting angles, crane loads, counter balance, etc. With this training and interest, Chris went on to college and is studying engineering today. (Another success story of playing with mechanical toys and learning). My visit with Mark developed into a discussion about Erector Sets and the A. C. Gilbert Society. Mark had an Erector Set as a child and his interest was rekindled in Erector with our conversation. I am sending Mark a couple of December 2016 ACGHS Newsletter and possibly he will become a member. This is just an example of the excitement in association with Erector Sets.

Until next time, have fun this winter playing with your antique toys. Contact me at 219-869-1467 on your thoughts and concerns. President Claude.

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A.C. Gilbert Heritage Society™

Website Address: www.acghs.org or www.acgilbertheritagesociety.com

The new password was sent to you via email.

The ACGHS Newsletter is published quarterly for the benefit of the membership. The newsletter is the primary communication tool for the Society. Its purpose is to keep members informed about society activities and spread information about the products of the former A.C. Gilbert Company. In addition, "For Sale & Want Ads" are printed at no cost to members. Send them and any other relevant articles to the Newsletter Editor.

Annual dues are \$25 per calendar year. Centurion memberships are \$100. Checks for renewal should be made out to "ACGHS" and sent to the Secretary/Treasurer, Bob Asleson (see address below).

Back issues of the ACGHS Newsletter are always for sale at \$6 per copy postpaid. Contact Joe Swiatek (312) 545-9209 or email js1204@yahoo.com.

Board of Directors

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William S. Harrison III

Newsletter Schedule

Deadline for Submissions	Issue Date
February 15, 2017	March 15, 2017
May 15, 2017	June 15, 2017
August 15, 2017	September 15, 2017
November 15, 2017	December 15, 2017

Key Board Contact People

Claude Butt (574) 583-6909; email: ckbutt@centurylink.net; 8152 E. 400 N., Monticello, IN 47960: Any questions about club management, rules and bylaws.

Bob Asleson (320) 396-3905; email: aslesora@northlc.com; 39330 Jay St. NW, Stanchfield, MN 55080: Questions about membership roster, dues, and finances.

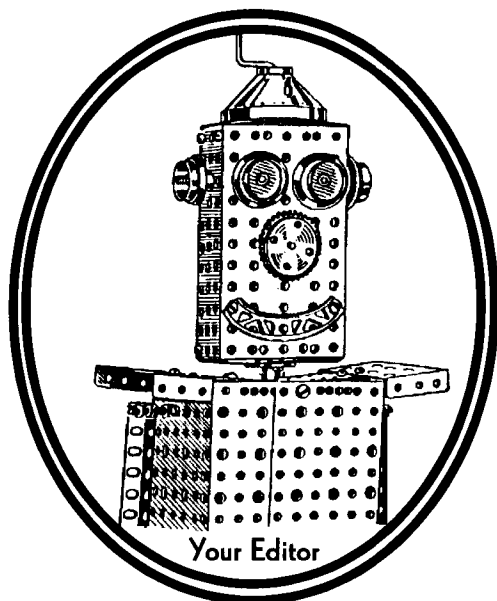
David Gilbert (540) 662-4841; email: rumseydog97@yahoo.com; 620 Old Baltimore Rd., Winchester, VA 22603: Questions about the ACGHS web site

Dave Blood (262) 681-2172; daveblood2011@gmail.com; 440 Hollow Creek Rd., Racine, WI 53402: Newsletter article submissions; ads and newsletter questions.

Joe Swiatek (312) 545-9209; js1204@yahoo.com; 1208 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60622: Back issues of newsletter and Members Model Manual.

Guest Editor Message

I have agreed to step in to assemble and edit this issue (only). As our president has noted, Dave and Marilyn Blood have now volunteered to get back in the saddle, and resume their excellent work with the first issue of 2017. This is a very encouraging development, as our club would surely shrivel up without a strong and committed newsletter editorship.



Old timers will (I hope) remember that I was the original newsletter editor, in the mid to late 1990s, taking over from club founder Bill Harrison himself. A lot has changed since then! Certainly the biggest change is the ability to include color photographs and artwork. Another is the general increase in the number of pages. One thing we did not have “back in the day” was highlighting of particular members’ collections and Erector rooms. Also, back then, the internet and eBay had not taken over, so that buy and sell ads were more numerous. But, as the saying goes, “Embrace change!”

Membership renewal materials for 2017 are included with this newsletter. Please remember to get that check in the mail!

- Jay Smith

New Members and Corrections: Please refer to the Directory on the ACGHS web site. This is the most efficient way of keeping our membership information current.

If you have changes to your address, phone number, or email, please send them to Bob Asleson to incorporate into his spreadsheet. You can send it via email to Bob at aslesora@northlc.com or via snail mail at 39330 Jay Street, NW, Stanchfield, MN 55080. Bob will then forward that information on to David Gilbert to post on the web site.

Upcoming Meetings

The **2017 National Convention** will be held in Huntsville, AL on July 8, hosted by Joe and Beth Grobmyer.

We would like to personally invite you to the ACGHS “Family Reunion” Show next year in Huntsville, AL. You might wonder “family reunion”? There are a lot of members who have not attended a show in several years and we would like for you to make your plans to attend next year. Come back and join us in beautiful Huntsville.

There are lots of fun things to do in the area. Bring your family. Come early or stay late. There will be plenty of fun things for you to do. If you need help, let me help you with your plans. If you attended this year’s convention in Chicago, you received a packet of information of activities in the area. If there is something you are interested in that is not included, please contact me and I will find the information that you need. We have plenty of neat things planned for the show. So mark your calendars now for July 7-9, 2017. Let us show you some southern hospitality.

The **Spring Midwest Regional Meeting** will be held in April 8, 2017, 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at The Faith East Community Center in Lafayette, IN hosted by Claude Butt.

Friday Open House at the Blood's Prior to the Fall Midwest Regional Meeting



Ken Weing & Dennis Ducharme examine the tray from a mint 1948 No. 12 1/2 set at our Friday Open House.

Ironically, the mint set came from Ken's neck of the woods. I purchased the set from a collector who lived at the foot of the White Mountains in New Hampshire. The collector purchased it from an antique dealer who bought it from a hardware store that was going out of business.



Even though I have demonstrated the model pile driver at past regional



Although we couldn't have the Saturday meeting at Gateway Technical College at the Racine Campus on Lake Michigan, that didn't stop us from our usual happy hour and dinner near the Lake at the Wind Point Lighthouse on Friday evening.

Scenes from the Fall Midwest Regional Meet



With our usual venue at Gateway Technical College Racine Campus unavailable due to a remodeling project, we were assigned to this hall on the Kenosha Campus. In making the arrangements with the Kenosha Campus Events Coordinator, I had mentioned that the Midwest Region of the club had 125 members. By the looks of the hall, I think that she thought that all 125 would be in attendance. The only negative comment from members was that they missed the view of Lake Michigan in Racine. We will be back in Racine for the Fall Meeting – September 23, 2017.



Bruce Hansen sets up for business, while Ken Weinig waits patiently. Bruce is from Charlotte MI, while Ken comes all the way from Rumney NH.



Doug and Linda Truckenmiller.

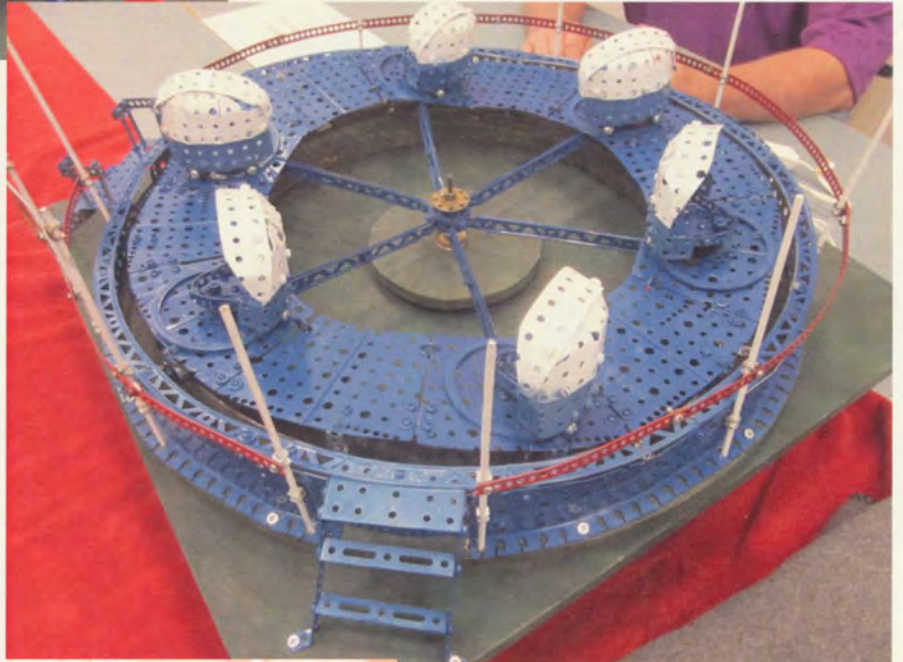


Doug Truckenmiller and Hank Grant debuted their latest Arnold's Amusement Park Ride, the Tilt-A-Whirl.

These two master model builders give a whole new meaning to A.C. Gilbert's Amusement Park Set

Doug puts on more miles than most Midwest region members to attend the Spring and Fall Midwest Regional meetings as he resides in the far northwestern part of the region, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Hank Grant lives only a short distance east of Sioux Falls in Okoboji, Iowa which is located in the northwest corner of the state, almost to the Minnesota state line. Hank carpooled with Doug and Linda.



Tilt-a-Whirl Detail

Bill Streenz (right) applies his I.D. tag and meets his first customer of the day, Joe Swiatek (left). Bill is one of the master model builders.



His unicycle rider on a tightrope was awesome, not to mention the quality of his giant Ferris wheel and Gilbert Meccano ship model.



An A49 with connecting rod enabled the unicycle rider to move back and forth on the tightrope effortlessly.

Bill Streenz and club secretary/treasurer Bob Asleson filled five tables with models and display sets. Bob is another long-distance driver as he probably lives the furthest north of anyone in the region — Stanchfield, MN — 60 miles north of Minneapolis.



Looking at an overview of the Gilbert toys and models for sale or on display, one thing always stands out — A.C. Gilbert's ability to catch your eye with color.



Gail Melgarey certainly has good taste when it comes to designer jewelry. It caught my eye.



When I designed the t-shirts for the Midwest Region, I'm sure that I plagiarized someone's phrase that I saw somewhere, but it fit perfectly. "Without heritage every generation starts over". (Bottom line on back of shirt.)



Last but not least was lunch at noon and our short business meeting. Joe Swiatek brought the sandwiches & chips from Vinnie's Sandwich Shop that he and his wife Darlene operate next to his hardware store in Chicago.

Scenes from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meet
Saturday, Nov 12
Strasburg PA



A most impressive display at the meet was Lang Smoak's setup of a number of classic Erector models and sets.



This 1934 # 7 ½ set, in really very nice condition, was offered (and was sold) at the meet. The best feature of the set is the set of LW rubber tires. These are intact, with no chunks missing, even on the back. Not even very mushy. The rest of the parts are equally good.



The "Over the Hill Gang" at the Mid-Atlantic Fall Meet. We have identified 11 of the 15 in the picture as Den Cannon, Frank Usinski, Don Gilbert, Steve Evans, Lang Smoak, Jay Smith, Jay Williams, Ken Weinig, Dennis Ducharme, Chuck Forbes, and Tom Lindsey (in no particular order). Apologies to the other four—you left too quickly after the meet! Let Dave Blood know who you are, so he can update the info in the next newsletter. But thanks very much for attending!

A Most Unusual Set

By Jay Smith



This very unusual set appeared recently on eBay. The "Gilbert Clock Set" does not appear in any Gilbert catalog that I am aware of. The Klax Toy notation on the lid undoubtedly means that Gilbert was remarketing a toy produced by a "Klax Toy" company. There is no copyright date anywhere on the box or in the instruction book, but most likely the set dates from the early 1920s, when Gilbert introduced a very large array of new toys, such as the Weather Bureau set, the Tin Can Toy, the Tele-Set, and a great many others. There is no set number notation anywhere on the aprons of the box, just plain blue paper.

Even though there is no set number specified on the box, there are two similar but different clock sets illustrated. The set above builds Clock No. 2, per the instructions on the next page.

The first part of the instruction book tells the History of Clocks, from sundials through water clocks and hour glasses, to weight clocks (such as this set builds), to "Nurembergian eggs" and pocket watches.

[As an aside, the modern wrist watch did not widely exist until WWI, and was not mentioned in this instruction book]



Dear Boy Friends:

As I keep adding Toys to the big Gilbert Family, I try to add those which will furnish the most fun to all of my boy friends and at the same time teach them something worth while.

The Gilbert Clock Set is one of my latest additions. My Engineers have been working on it for a long time to produce an actual working Clock Set which will operate exactly like the real clocks and I know I have succeeded. You are going to have a lot of fun with this set and it is going to teach you the mysteries of clock works, which will be valuable to you in after-life.

Cordially yours,

A.C. Gilbert
President.

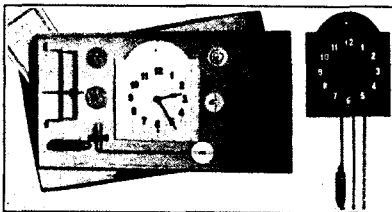
The Story of The Clocks

A Manual for

GILBERT
CLOCK SETS

KLAX TOY

14 THE STORY OF THE CLOCKS

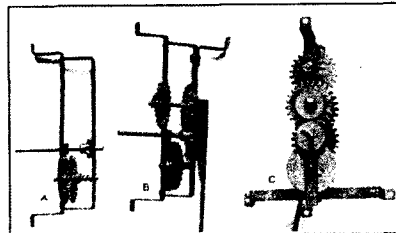


CLOCK SET No. 2

HOW TO ASSEMBLE CLOCK No. 2

1. Compare the picture of Clock Set No. 2 with your set, whether or not you have set 2.
2. Take the axle, which is swaged in the middle, out of the envelope, and force it in the drive gear, the one with the small teeth, so that the swaged part of the axle is inside the hub, and the axle sticks out in front $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch.
3. Slip the gear with the large teeth on the axle, behind the drive gear without tightening the set screw.
4. Place the spring from the envelope behind the second gear and force the axle in the frame by spreading it a little apart.
5. Hold the end of the axle flush with the back part of the frame and tighten the set screw in the back gear so that the spring pushing against this gear forces the front gear to mesh with the pinion above. Now if you push the front end of the axle in, flush with the frame, you disconnect the drive gear from the pinion above. By releasing the axle the gear springs into its former position, and meshes the pinion. At the same time look out that the second gear will clear entirely the set screw

THE STORY OF THE CLOCKS 15



on the hub of the large pinion, when the axle is pushed back. See Figure. A.

6. Place the gear on the rear end of the main axle and tighten it by means of the set screw.
7. The next hole in the frame is the bearing for the pendulum. Push the axle of the pendulum through the back part of the frame. Slip on it inside of the frame the double gear, the one whose smaller gear has large teeth. Push the axle through the front of the frame, slip the double gear with the fine teeth on the smaller one over it. Place the collar in front and tighten the set screw, seeing that the escapement axle moves freely. See Fig. B.
8. Tighten the pendulum axle and the anchor in a position that they form a perfect angle of 90 degrees.
9. Insert in the bottom of the frame, the bracket and hold it in place by means of screw and nut from the envelope. Do the same with the hanger on the top of the frame.
10. Take the axle with the swaged end out of the envelope. Slip it in the back end of the frame through the large gear inside and place on the front end the small gear and tighten them with set screws. See Figure C. The large gear inside the frame should mesh and hold in position the double gear below.

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11. Slip the chain over the back gear, in the bottom that the weight is on the left side from the front.
12. Take the tubing out of the envelope and force it in the gear with the fine teeth. Slip this over the main axle in front. See Fig. C.
13. Attach dial to the frame by two screws and nuts.
14. Slip the hour hand with the hub inwards over the tubing and force in front of it the minute hand with the hub outwards bending them if necessary so that the hands pass each other freely. The center part of the minute hand should prevent the hour hand from slipping forward.
15. Force upon the end of the pendulum the sleeve with the extension piece and the pendulum disc.
16. Hang the clock on the wall and see that it hangs down perfectly straight.
17. With the thumb of your left hand push the bottom axle in, clearing the pinions above at the same time pulling with the right hand on the chain until you bring the weight up to about one inch from the clock. Allow the gear to spring back into mesh and the clock will start to run if you move the pendulum.
18. When you reach by experiment the position in which the clock runs smoothest, steady the clock by means of two nails driven through the holes of the back bracket.
19. The weight of the clock turns the back axle. The drive gear on the bottom axle works upon the pinion on the main axle above which turns the minute hand. The escapement on the pendulum regulates the speed of the clock allowing only a slow movement for the minute hand. The train of gears on the two axles above reduces the speed of the minute axle from one to twelve, so that the hour hand rotates twelve times as slow as the minute hand.
20. If the clock when well oiled should not run satisfactorily try to increase the weight by adding some pieces of iron.

The fine-tooth gear seen in the upper left of the illustration above, is EXACTLY the same as the #CW large fine-tooth gear as found in the 1926 #10 set. A smaller pinion in the clock set is similar to, but not quite the same, as the Erector #CV gear.

ACGHS Member Profile

This is a series of articles for the newsletter profiling Board members so that everyone in the club will have the opportunity to get to know them a little better and to understand how Gilbert toys impacted their lives. Some may include other aspects of their background.

Dave Blood

As I was pressed into service to produce the September newsletter, I suddenly realized that I had never written my own "Member Profile". We have covered every board member and officer except me, so here goes.

I've been a member of ACGHS since 1993. I didn't have many Gilbert products as a child. In fact, I only received Gilbert Erector sets twice at Christmas. In 1947, I received a 2 ½ set which I quickly made all the models and was disappointed because there was no electric motor. I'm sure in that first letter to Santa, I specified an Erector set with a motor. However, I still had the interest to build with Erector if I had a set with enough parts and the motor. At 10 years old you know damned well you're not dealing with Santa, you're negotiating with your parents. Apparently my negotiations and wishes were taken seriously as I did receive a 6 ½ set with an A49 motor in 1948. As many of you know from stories I've written in previous newsletters, I took full advantage of using the separate parts page for beefing up the 6 ½ set to something just short of a 12 ½ set inventory.



Even though I only had 2 Erector sets and a bunch of spare parts, I was a creative kid and built all kinds of unique contraptions including a turntable for a 78 r.p.m. record which was challenging trying to come up with the right gear ratio, having no previous training.

Using screwdrivers and wrenches became a large part of my continuing education, and many times I abandoned my homework to spend an evening working on a mechanical project. My dad had a serious talk with me about neglecting my homework and said that if working with tools was more interesting, I had better figure out a way to make money turning a wrench. When many of my friends were off to college after high school, I was off to an indentured apprenticeship in a predominantly German tool and die shop which gave me some of the best training available anywhere.

My career branched off from tool and die to tool design to plant management. Of all things improbable, considering my abysmal study habits through grade school and high school, during the last 15 years of my career, I was employed at a Wisconsin Technical College as teacher of tool and die technology, lead teacher of the industrial mechanic program as well as department chair of the Trade and Industry Department. I actually made a better living than some of my friends who had gone to college.

My collection of Gilbert products today is primarily Erector specific from 1913 to 1962 with a few American Flyer in the mix. It is impossible to say which Erector set is my favorite because I have several favorites.

If I could ask one question of A.C., it would be about his fasteners. I would ask him why in hell did he use those miserable square nuts when actually some of his earlier sets contained hex nuts. Also because A.C. was a leader in technology, why didn't he switch to Phillips head screws when Frank Phillips came out with his patented Phillips head screw in 1934. Why didn't he jump on the bandwagon and get rid of those miserable slotted screws? After all, by 1936 GM was using Phillips head screws in their Cadillac line. A.C. probably even knew Frank Phillips because he was born in Oregon.



Free image from www.thegraphicsfairy.com

**Here's hoping Santa brings you the Gilbert toy of your dreams ! Best wishes for 2017.
And thanks to all for your ongoing support and interest in the ACGHS.**

The First Gilbert Factory – the Final Chapter

By Jay Smith

At the 2013 Convention in Chicago, I gave a talk about the various factories that Gilbert established. I wanted to go back here, and wrap up the story of the first factory site, at 159 Valley St., in New Haven.



MYSTO FACTORIES, NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Above is an old drawing of the factory site (notice the horse cart in the driveway). It is not clear how much of the property Gilbert used – I suspect not all of it. The feature in the background is the West Rock Ridge, one of several steep glacial ridges which run down through Connecticut to Long Island Sound. West Rock Ridge is actually penetrated by a tunnel nearby, through which runs Connecticut Route 15, otherwise known as the Merritt Parkway.



On the way home from the Convention in 2013, I stopped off the Merritt Parkway, to see in person what had become of the site. Clearly some construction was contemplated. As I was walking around the property, I met (1) the woman who lives next door, to the left in the photo, and (2) someone from the electric company. From the woman I learned that the historic marker planted with some fanfare by Bill Harrison in 1997 (see ACGHS newsletter for September 1997) had long ago been dug up and stolen by metal thieves, sad to say. "Anything that is not guarded gets stolen." From the electric company rep I learned that the original factory buildings had been torn down decades ago, and that the site had been condemned as a toxic waste area. However, as of mid-2013 the area had either been cleaned up, or enough people bought off, that buildings could be built.



So as of today, here is what we have: Two long narrow houses have been built. No indication whatsoever that light industry had ever occurred on the property!

Looking back at the original hundred-year-old sketch, it appears to me that the factory site may also have included some of the property seen off to the right. But those details are lost in the mists of history !

A Complete Guide to the No. 12 ½ Set - by Bruce Hansen

Imagine the look in a child's eyes on Christmas morning when they unwrapped a large, heavy present and came upon a large, red steel box! I don't know how Santa got them down the chimney, but a new No. 12 ½ set had to be the highlight of many a lucky child on Christmas morning! Did you know that not all No. 12 ½ sets were created equally? There are at least NINE variations of this set through the years. This article will go through the sets in my collection.

The 1948 set was packed in a steel box 24" x 14" x 4" and was called "The Remote Control Set". The same sized steel box was previously used for the 1934 - 1937 Hudsons and the 1938 - 1942 Electric Train sets. Those sets had welded tabs on the inside of the boxlid for holding an insert with parts. The 1948 set had a large label that filled the entire lid and pictured 3 boys playing with the featured model, the Mysterious Walking Giant. The label also listed the highlights of the set (3 motors, caterpillar treads, etc.) and pictured a caterpillar crane.

The 1948 set had a large 24" x 14" tray with a red and yellow insert showing off some of the parts. Lifting out the tray revealed more hardware. The front half of the box had partitions or bins separating various featured parts. Going from left to right, they were a boiler, A49 motor, treads and remote control, P55 remote control motor, No. 2B transformer and a second boiler.

The rear half of the box had a display tray made up of MN base plates. Again, more parts were displayed. Under the MN tray was a third layer of parts T-clipped to a cardboard insert. The tread and bottom cardboard inserts show up in mustard and pale blue.

The set contained a number of unique parts to just this set. Those included the treads, tread pulleys, P55 remote control motor, motor controller, LU offset wrench, M base plates and the NL bolster brackets. The No. 12 ½ section of the manual illustrated ten models which all used the P55 remote control motor. The motor core was taken from the American Flyer line. The motor control box had two momentary switches which when pressed powered the motor in either forward or reverse. The M base plates were left-over from the Electric Train sets sold before WWII. No models were illustrated with those parts. Also, the parts cans were 2" deep for this year only.

Gilbert introduced the carousel and improved the parachute jump models in 1949. However, they were not introduced at the start of the year. As a result, collectors have two 1949 versions of the No. 12 ½ set to find.

The early 1949 set came in a 24" x 14" x 4" box also, except the tray only covered the rear 24" x 7 ½" of the box. The box partition that ran from left to right was made slightly taller to keep the smaller tray from sliding in the box. The contents of the early 1949 set were identical to the 1948 set.

The half tray naturally had an impact on the organization of the set. The tread insert in the 1948 set had the treads to the left, and the OD control box to the right. The early 1949 set had the treads on the right, the OD control box in the lower left corner and added the MA radiator in the upper left corner. The aforementioned half tray had a unique layout as did the MN base plate tray under it. The bottom cardboard insert was the same as the 1948 version.





Early 1949 version to the left, late 1949 version to the right. The early version matched the contents of the 1948 set but now had parts on a "half-tray." The late 1949 set included the new Carousel model parts and improved Parachute Jump

The later 1949 and 1950 sets featured the new carousel model. The half-tray and MN base plate tray had new layouts because of the new parts. The set did not build any new No. 12½ models, but the design of the Walking Giant was improved. The original design used CH right angles at the rear of the feet. When walking, the right angle would dig into the surface the giant was on and he would push off it and move forward. Not a way for a young builder to endear themselves to mom by scratching up her hardwood floors! The new design used the treads and a new ratcheting mechanism. Instead of a CH digging into the table, an O pawl rode on a CJ 36-tooth gear. The gear could turn one way, but not the other. The only change between 1949 and 1950 was the motor. An A49 motor was in the 1949 set, an A47 motor in the 1950 set.

The No. 12½ set was dropped in 1951 (a casualty of the Korean War) but resurfaced in 1956. The new version on first glance resembled the older sets, but in actuality was quite different. Gone were the transformer and P55 remote control motor. However, the 1956 included a new part, the X14B663 clamshell bucket. As soon as the box top was opened, the differences were evident. The 1948-50 sets used the same inside cardboard with "The Mysterious Walking Giant" displayed. Now the title was "Mysterious Walking Robot". The old set was called the Remote Control set, the new one was the Master Builder set. The light blue banner with many of the set features was revised to reflect the new content. Also, the 1948-50 Giant walked by Remote Control according to the inside cardboard. Since the P55 motor was deleted, the Robot merely walks, without remote control.



1950 set above; 1956 set to the right. The 1950 version was the same as the late 1949 version except for the change in the motors. The 1956 and later sets now highlighted the Walking Robot and included the clamshell bucket but didn't include the P55 motor.

The 1948-50 set had partitions along the bottom front of the box. The 1956 set added one as the treads were now displayed on their side instead of flat. The removable tray had the same organization as the 1950 version of the set, except the insert was changed to blue instead of silver-foil backed cardboard. Underneath the sets were quite different. The 1956 did not have a display tray made from MN base plates. Instead, the box bottom was divided into two rows of bins, one long one at the top and five smaller ones at the bottom. Simple corrugated risers were in the bottoms of the bins to hold the parts closer to the top of the bins making the set look fuller. Parts were simply rubber-banded together and dumped in the bins. What a time savings for the packing department at the factory!

The 1956 set dropped some of the P55 remote control models, but added a number of others. These included the oil drilling rig and Texas Tower.

The 1957 set differed slightly from the 1956 set. The A48 mechanical motor was dropped, but in its place the 3V DC3 motor was added. The DC3 motor was T-clipped to an insert with the clamshell bucket. The inside lid label was changed also. The light blue banner with the features of the set substituted "3V Electric Motor" in place of "110V Electric Engine".

The 1958 set was given the 5-digit No. 10092 designation. The inside box lid proclaimed the new number, the light blue banner was changed to highlight the new musical sound system parts. The box partitions were the same, but a new Sound System Kit box occupied the center section. The organization of the top tray changed also. The insert, like at least one display insert in all 1958 sets, was black. New models were added as every set built a robot model this year. The 1958 set came with two manuals for at least the first part of the year. With the new sound effects kit added, Gilbert was in a bind. There were apparently many left-over 1957 No. 12 1/2 manuals printed, but they didn't include the new sound effects kit. The solution: print a separate



1957 set to the left, 1958 set to the right. The 1957 set included the DC3 3V motor instead of the A48 mechanical motor. The rest of the organization was the same. Introduction of the musical sound effects kit and rocket in 1958 drove another change in organization.

manual. This "Bonus" manual without a cover included new models for all of the sets and the instructions for building the sound effects kit.

The 1959 set had the same organization as the 1958 set, except the top tray insert was now blue again instead of black. The outside kneeling boy label was changed to the same scene as that on the early 1958 manual covers: two boys playing with the robot model. However, this change must have occurred some time in late 1958 as my No. 10092 has the more typical 1959 box top label. Some new models were added including the unicyclist and DEW line radar. The 1959 set also included the new TA conveyor belt and TB/TC ball bearing system.

The conveyor belt was a tan piece of fabric roughly 1 1/2" wide. Three models were illustrated. The ball bearing system was a steel plate with six holes and six 5/16" diameter ball bearings. These were placed between two BN turret plates and did a wonderful job on rotating models.

Gilbert cheapened the No. 12 1/2 set in 1960. First, the sound system parts were dropped. Also, the large 24" x 14" x 4" box was dropped in favor of a double-lid box 20" x 18" x 3". The box was actually constructed from two No. 7 1/2 set boxes with the hinged end of the lids to the outside. Two reinforcing angle strips were fastened to the bottom and a clasp was added to the lids. Naturally, the organization of the set changed drastically this year. A corrugated insert in the left half held the motors and clamshell bucket. Below those were boxes for the CS wheel segments, and two additional boxes for small parts. The four parts cans were also positioned in the corrugated insert. On top of the corrugated insert was a Styrofoam insert which held many of the gears, pulleys and wheels.

The right side of the box was divided by red-trimmed corrugated partitions. Parts were rubber-banded together and dropped in wherever they fit. The 1960 version of the set continued unchanged (except for minor finish changes on some parts) through 1962. So, that's a wrap boys and girls, NINE variation of the iconic No. 12 1/2 set. Maybe it's time for some late Christmas shopping to complete your collection?



1959 set to the left. New parts for 1959 included the ball bearings and conveyor belt. The organization was the same as 1958; note the now blue top tray insert instead of 1958's black.

Leftovers of this set may have been sold by Montgomery Ward for the 1960 Christmas season



1960 - 1962 set to the left. The box top showed a boy a walking robot. Curiously, the robot model was different than the one illustrated in the manual. Naturally, yet another organization change with the new box and omitted sound effects parts.



Final Prices Realized at Auction

1913 Erector #1	\$950
1928 White Truck Set	\$663
1931 8 1/2 Hudson Loco and Tender	\$7211
1933 Hudson and Tender Model	\$1857
Un cataloged cardboard box mid-1930s Zeppelin set	\$6289
1959 10093 Robot Set	\$1107
1933 metal box Electrical Set	\$519
Late 1951? Atomic Energy Set	\$12650
1910 Mysto Magic Set	\$1619
1911 Mysto Magic Set	\$569
1911 smaller Mysto Magic Set	\$221
1929s #2006 Mysto Magic Set	\$562
1929 #2007 Mysto Magic Set	\$306
1930s #2012 Mysto Magic Set	\$1140
1933 #3 Mysto Magic Set	\$168
1929 #2020 Coin Tricks Set	\$887
1931 #600 Balloon Set	\$303
C1922 Gilbert Loose Coupler Radio	\$2811
1920s wood box Gilbert Wireless Telegraph Set	\$412
1922 Gilbert #4016 Receiving Outfit	\$633
1922 Gilbert #3502 Tele-Set	\$591
1920 Gilbert #6544 Signal Engineering Set	\$3163
1920 Gilbert #6502 Hydraulic and Pneumatic Engineering Set	\$1581
1933 Gilbert red metal box Electrical Set	\$1519
1930s Gilbert blue wood box Master Chemistry Set	\$1297
1933 Gilbert orange metal box #10 Chemistry Set	\$506
1935 Gilbert blue metal box Chemistry Outfit	\$772
1950s #15 blue metal box Gilbert Chemistry Set	\$569

AUCTION #219

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Wow !!



The Heritage Exchange

Standard Sources

Lou Boselli, 19 Payson Rd., Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520. (845) 534-2863. Many early Gilbert Toy parts available, as well as current new production Meccano/Erector. Maybe I've got it!

Brian Johnson, 341 University Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025. (650) 322-7033. Excellent repro cardboard packaging inserts and panels for nearly all pre-'63 sets. Also, parachutes, magnets, horses, lights, houses, and many other items. Catalog available.

Joel Perlin, 1111 Acapulco Ct., Oxnard, CA 93035. (805) 985-5498. email: joel@metalconstructiontoys.com. Web site: <http://www.metalconstructiontoys.com>. Check my web site or call any time for all your Erector and Meccano needs. Large supply of spare parts, collectable sets and ephemera always available.

Restoration Train Parts, 135 Richwood Dr., Box 390, Gloversville, NY 12078. (518) 725-4446. Many Erector repro parts for Hudson and White Truck sets. Also ED Triple Drum Hoists w/Cranks \$225 ea. Call or write for details.

Frank Usinski, 11612 Ketchum Rd., Lawtons, NY 14091. (716) 337-2795. For Sale: Erector repro parts; set of 6 uncut "OF" horses \$13.00 postpaid; Nickel Hardware: N21—S51—S62—and S11 also available. Many Erector parts at reasonable prices. Call Frank for prices and availability.

Harvey Klein, 9011 Cliffwood, Houston, TX 77096. (713) 723-5170. Many parts available at competitive prices. Call or write for details. hsklein@sbcglobal.net.

Ray Rosebush, 1702 S. Mackinaw Rd., KawKawlin, MI 48631. (989) 671-1602. Many parts and some sets available, repro Zeppelin bags—\$175. Call or write for more information. Erectoray@charter.net.

Randy Sauder, 177 Wrights Hollow Road, SE, Calhoun, GA 30701 (678) 438-5221. rsauder1@comcast.net. 1000's of original spare parts available. Call or email for details.

Jim Lawrence, 603 Ridgeview Drive, Morgantown, PA 19543-8868, email: jimlawrence48@gmail.com (610) 450-4573. Complete restoration of Type II Erector sets. Just ask for a certain set and I'll see what I can do.

Paul K Moore, 1839 Stouder Dr., Reynoldsburg, Oh, 43068 (614) 499-5566 P-58 Motor restoration providing the armature and commutator are intact, Motor will be cleaned, new brushes and springs installed and tested. \$25 per motor plus shipping.

Wagner & Sons, Inc.; 22365 Alydar Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653; (240) 925-7372 (Business) and (301)-342-9438 (Office) E-Mail: mwagner@wagnerandsonstoys.com. Selling Erector Sets and Parts since 1985. Large selection of reproduction Erector Decals, Labels, and replacement Erector Set Parts. Let us know what you are looking for. Visit our listings on EBAY - Seller ID "5344". Always buying collections, accumulations and piles of Gilbert Erector,

Publications & Videos

Meccano and other Construction Systems as well as Trains and Old Toys. Let us know what you have to sell.

FOR SALE: 1914 Meccano repro instruction manual, 135 pages, \$38.50 ppd. Erector 1928 to 1932 Manual of Instructions, \$35.00 plus \$5.00 shipping. Hudson manual to construct locomotive & tender, \$10. Restoration Train Parts, (518) 725-4446) 135 Richwood Dr., Box 390, Gloversville, NY 12078.

Mint Original A.C. Gilbert 1957 Catalog 01973 "Erector and Gilbert Toys", 12 pages in color—\$50 ea. or in b&w Xerox copies for \$10 ea. AND Mint Original A.C. Gilbert 1959 Catalog "Golden Anniversary Science Toys", 12 pages in color—\$50 ea. or in b&w Xerox copies for \$10 ea. Contact Vincent Amato, 395 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457; (860) 346-7083.

FOR SALE: Tom Barker, an ACGHS member, has published a new book, the *Gilbert American Flyer S Gauge Operating and Repair Guide, 3rd Edition*. Now in its 40th Anniversary, Third Edition, it is full of new information along with a checklist providing step-by-step procedures for servicing a steam or diesel engine. The book is available on amazon.com for \$20.00

Celebrate 100 years of Erector with *The Magic of A.C. Gilbert*, a 32-page, full-color picture book biography. Aimed at readers aged 7-11, this book can be enjoyed by curious people of all ages. \$7.95 plus \$3.99 shipping. Order from Real Writing Unlimited, 172 Wetleau Drive, Lowell, OR 97452 or at www.realwriting.us.

The Mysto Erector – Story of The Mysto Manufacturing Company. 140 page book. More than 150 photographs, illustrations, and ads, many in color. Includes: A.C. Gilbert, John Petrie, Clyde Powers, Frank Gilbert, Mysto Magic, Mysto Puzzles, Mysto Erector, Brik-tor, and others. Features photos of factories, storefronts, and showrooms along with catalogs, patents, trademarks, and others. Price \$34 plus \$6 for U.S.A. Priority Mail. Merle Carnegie, 2812 Anza Avenue, Davis, CA 95616-0200.

Individual Ads

Dave Blood: daveblood2011@gmail.com; **Webmaster: David Gilbert:** rumseydog97@yahoo.com

(Individual Ad Policy: The date after your ad designates when it automatically ends. If you want your ad to continue, let Dave Blood know. If we don't hear from you, the ad will be automatically deleted.

FOR SALE; Parachute Jump Billboard, \$29.95 with Free Shipping!!! Contact Dennis Cannon 302-239-9474 or email at cannoncrew1@verizon.net (December 2017)

WANTED: Looking for very clean Type I sets AND parts and manuals, particularly the 1921-23 sets. Does not have to be rare parts or complete sets or big sets, just really clean straight parts. Have a real treasure of a Type I set? Interested in that, too! Mitch Brown 651-226-4468 or mitch.brown@workscomputing.com (December 2017)

FOR SALE: The following sets, all with original parts, original manuals, inventoried/organized, and most of the original boxes/inserts: 1926 No. 8; 1927 No. 8 (Three-Drum Hoist); 1928 No. 8; 1928 No. B; 1929 No. 8 (Zeppelin, with bag). Contact Fred Reynolds, 913-402-7038 or reynoldscolusa@gmail.com, for photos and details. (December 2017)

FOR SALE: Many Gilbert Erector sets and Gilbert scientific sets. Contact John Wickland; ph. 414-546-4689. (December 2017)

FOR SALE; 1930 A.C. Gilbert No. 10 (recessed lid) . Contact Joe Swiatek at 312-545-9209 or js1204@yahoo.com. (December 2017)

WANTED: Looking for an Erector 10093 Master Builder Set from 1959. I'd like it to be inventoried, organized and it can be in "played with" condition. Looking to build a few things and then put it in my display case so it doesn't have to be perfect but complete! Some minor repro parts are OK. Craig Willard 609-923-7510 or cwill10041@aol.com. (December 2017)

FOR SALE: The souvenir pin that was distributed at the 2016 convention in Chicago is available for \$6.00. Please contact Joe Swiatek at 312-545-9209 or js1204@yahoo.com if you would like this remembrance. (June 2017)

WANTED: Erector No. 14 Revolving Tower Display. Contact Steven Blotner at barry45tca@comcast.net. (June 2017)

FOR SALE: Flat brown leather lacing as used for the box lid stays on mid-1920s #7 and #7 ½ sets. (Leather shoelaces can be used, but they don't really look right.) This is the authentic article. Sold in 8" lengths. Just send me three \$1 bills for two, or a five \$ bill for five. Please no checks! - I have never had any problems with small amounts of currency sent through the mail. Jay Smith, snailmail address in the directory. (December 2017)

